

The President's Daily Brief

15 November 1969

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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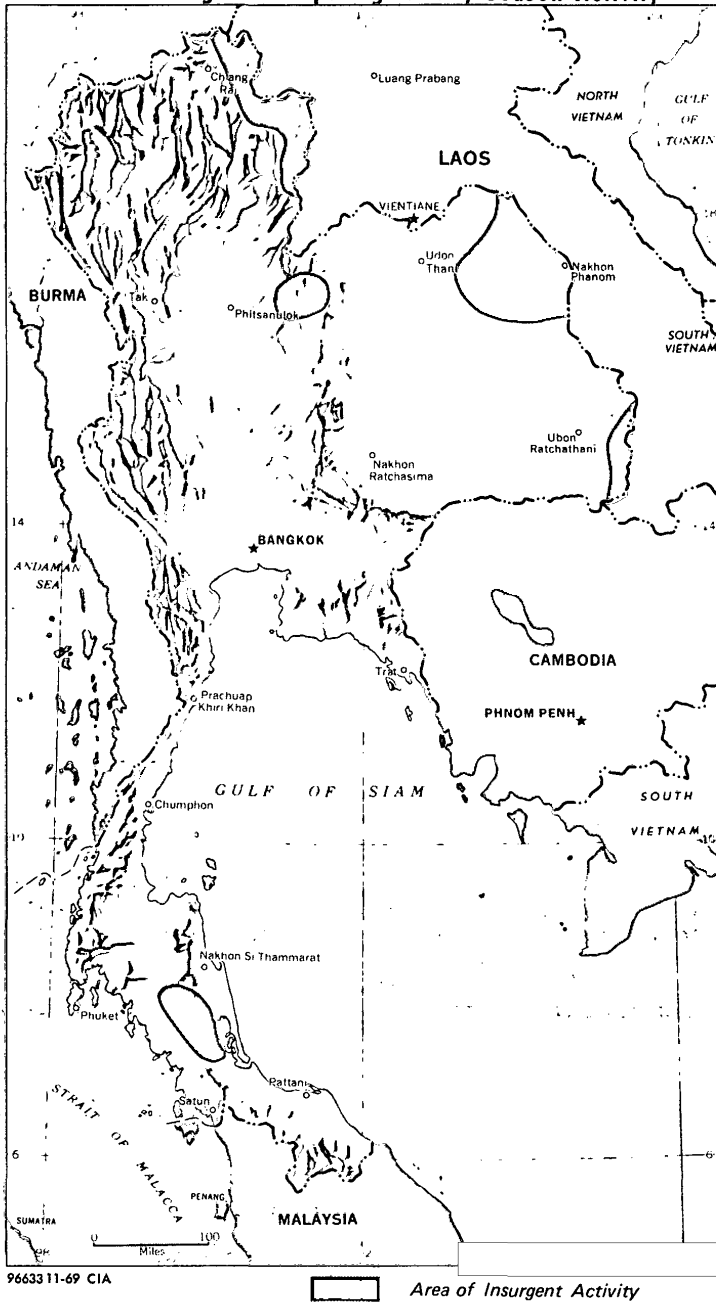
PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Preparations for the annual dry season insurgency campaign in Thailand are under way. (Page 1)

The UN General Assembly is not likely to act decisively on the various chemical and biological warfare resolutions. (Page 2)

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Communist Insurgents Preparing for Dry Season Activity



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THAILAND

The Communists appear to be preparing their annual dry season insurgency campaign in several parts of the country. Villagers and defectors report an increase in the number and size of tribal units in the north, many of which appear better armed than in the past. In the adjacent lowlands, tribal units have for the first time recruited some ethnic Thais. This may indicate the Communists intend to expand their efforts into the more civilized parts of the country.

In the northeast the insurgents are operating out of their traditional areas in what appears to be an attempt to popularize their movement in local villages. In addition, Communist terrorist tactics in the south in recent weeks mark the first serious challenge of the government presence on the peninsula that joins Thailand with Malaysia.

So far, the guerrillas have managed to dramatize their presence well beyond their actual strength. It does appear, however, that violence will spread to areas that were quiet in the past.

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UN - ARMS CONTROL

The Swedes have considerable nonaligned support in the lobbies of the General Assembly for their resolution banning the use of CBW (chemical and biological warfare) agents, including tear gas, as provided for under the Geneva protocol of 1925. Nothing definitive on the CBW issue is likely to emerge from this session of the General Assembly. Indeed, the various resolutions on this topic probably will be referred to the Geneva disarmament conference for further consideration.

Meanwhile, the Soviets have temporarily held back from promoting their draft convention. It prohibits the development, production, and stockpiling of CBW agents and requires signatories to destroy existing stocks or divert them to peaceful uses.

The Swedes have not been deterred in advancing their resolution even though they have been made aware that it might complicate the US decision to ratify the protocol. Although the Soviets are not pushing their own plan at this time, they can be expected to renew their efforts later this month when the UN formally discusses disarmament.

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NOTES

Bolivia-USSR: [REDACTED]

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USSR: [REDACTED] recent movements by space support ships indicate that the Soviets plan soon to launch an unmanned lunar mission, but a precise lift-off date cannot yet be determined. The monitoring ships are only three or four days' sailing time from their support stations,

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